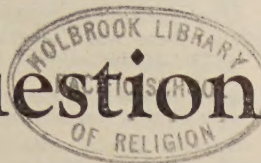


Social Questions Bulletin



The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, founded in 1907, seeks to deepen within the Church, the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discriminations and privileges. In seeking these objectives, the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, proposing social changes by democratic decisions, not by violence.

Volume 47

FEBRUARY, 1957

Number 2

Segregation Denies Unity in Christ

(The following is the text of the race relations message issued by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.)
". . . You are all one in Christ Jesus." —Galatians 3:28

All men, created alike in the image of God, are inseparably joined together. This is at the very heart of the Christian gospel. It is clearly expressed in Paul's declaration on Mars Hill: . . . "The Lord who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth . . . made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth . . ."

Again it is expressed in the affirmation, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." The climax of this universality is expressed in the fact that Christ died for all mankind.

Blatant Denial of Unity in Christ

This broad universality standing at the center of the Gospel denies brotherhood morally inescapable. Racial segregation is a blatant denial of the unity which we all have in Christ.

Segregation is a tragic evil that is utterly un-Christian. It substitutes the person-thing relationship for the person to person relationship. The philosophy of Christianity is strongly opposed to the underlying philosophy of segregation.

Therefore, every Christian is confronted with the basic responsibility of working courageously for a non-segregated society. The task of conquering segregation is an inescapable "must" confronting the Christian churches. Much progress has been made toward the goal of a non-segregated society, but we are still far from the promised land. Segregation persists as a reality.

The problem of segregated housing remains a critical one in every section of the nation. Segregated transportation facilities continue. Many communities are complying all too slowly with the Supreme Court's decision on desegregation in the public schools.

Some states have risen up in open defiance, with their legislative halls ringing loud with such words as "interposition" and "nullification" and with schemes of evasion. The churches themselves have largely failed to purge their own bodies of discriminatory practices. This evil persists in most of the local churches, church schools, church hospitals and other church institutions. The churches are called upon to recognize the urgent necessity of taking a forthright stand on this crucial issue. If we are to remain true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ we must not allow segregation to persist. Segregation is banished from every area of American life. Any discussion of segregation in America against the back-

ground of moral principles emphasizes the urgent need for prophetic voices. To be sure, there are communities which are successfully integrating schools and there are courageous persons in many communities who are standing steadfastly for the principles of Christian love and justice.

Morally Wrong to Accept Compromise

There are those who are telling us "to slow up" in the move for a non-segregated society. But the true Christian knows that it is morally wrong to accept a compromise which is designed to frustrate the fulfillment of Christian principle. The time is always ripe to do right. It is true that wise restraint and calm reasonableness must prevail in the process of social change.

Emotions must not run wild, and the virtues of love, patience and understanding goodwill must dominate all of our actions. But these considerations should serve to further the objective and not become a substitute for pressing on toward the goal. We face the hard challenge and the wondrous opportunity of letting the spirit of Christ work among us toward fashioning a truly Christian nation.

If we accept the challenge with more devotion and valor, we can speed the day when men everywhere will recognize that we "are all one in Christ Jesus."

Local churches can take action within their own organization by:

1—Re-examining continuously in the light of the Gospel their attitudes and behavior regarding race relations, and committing themselves to carrying out their Christian responsibility.

2—Opening membership in the local church and its organizations to all people and making this fact known in the community.

3—Selecting paid and volunteer leadership on the basis of qualifications.

4—Continuing to serve the total community by seeking new church members regardless of race.

5—Contacting their denominational social education and action agency or the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations, National Council of Churches for information regarding the process of achieving a racially inclusive fellowship in the local church.

6—Urging groups within the church to sponsor study groups and forums with worship services and other activities to gather the facts about race relations in the community, and to make plans for a race relations program that runs throughout the year.

(The National Council of Churches is indebted to Dr. Martin Luther King for drafting this message. Dr. King is minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.)

THE MIDDLE EAST and THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE

A decade ago Pres. Harry S. Truman enunciated the "Truman doctrine." It was part of the cold war, arms race, division of the world into hostile blocs, a general intensification on both sides of tension, suspicion, and hatred. It had the marks not of peace, but of war.

Today Mr. Truman's successor promulgates the "Eisenhower doctrine." It has the same basic characteristics and points in the same non-peaceful direction, serving to maintain and revive international tension, hatred, fear, cold war.

Under the plan adopted by the House, the President "is authorized to undertake, in the general area of the Middle East, military assistance programs with any nation or group of nations desiring such (and) . . . to employ the armed forces of the United States as he deems necessary to secure and protect the territorial integrity and political independence of any such nation or group of nations requesting such aid against overt armed aggression from any nation controlled by international communism." The plan also authorizes the President to spend up to

\$200 million out of existing appropriations during the balance of fiscal 1957, "for economic and military assistance."

This gives the President a blank check of unrestricted authority to effect military assistance programs with any unnamed nation or group of nations in this broad, deliberately undefined area (remember how we brought Greece and Turkey into the North Atlantic military organization). This opens up an ominous possibility that the United States and Soviet Union may become engaged in rival military aid programs with rival nations or groups of nations in the area. That could bring us and the whole world to or over the brink of atomic war.

What Overt Aggression?

This is not a plan against such aggression as the actual contemporary armed British-French-Israeli attacks on Egypt, nor is it protection against aggression in general. It deals solely with "overt armed aggression" in the Middle East which is Soviet or communist. And in the Middle East that is both non-existent and non-expected. We do not believe any informed official expects the Soviet Union to use its armed forces to invade any middle eastern nation. This year the U.S.S.R. has reduced its defense spending: (N. Y. Times, 2-6-57). Secretary Dulles, in his long testimony before congressional committees, neither had nor shared any knowledge of Soviet build-up, plan or preparation for such attack. But Mr. Dulles added: "The fact that we don't have evidence of attack doesn't prove that they are not going to attack." (This reminded Jessica Smith of the Mad Tea Party incident in *Alice in Wonderland*: "Have Some Wine?" the March Hare said in an encouraging tone. Alice looked all around the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. 'I don't see any wine,' she remarked. 'There isn't any,' said the March Hare.")

The conservative columnist and foreign policy expert, Walter Lippman, points out what we believe Mr. Dulles and others really know, "that the Soviet Union and the United States (in the Middle East) are mutually deterred from overt intervention." And the *New York Times* correspondent, Dana Adams Schmidt, suggested from Washington, "that the Administration has raised the hue and cry about the danger of military aggression as a cover for what it is really most interested in getting, namely, additional foreign aid funds for the Middle East with no strings attached."

Super-wealthy, despotic oligarchs in some impoverished, feudal middle eastern lands, might well fear a future social revolution from their own exploited people. But evidence is lacking that middle eastern nations expect or fear overt Soviet military invasion. Thus the Chief Minister of tiny Yemen, currently menaced by British military activity, "displayed no enthusiasm over President Eisenhower's Middle East plan. He saw no Communist threat to Yemen. 'Maybe Eisenhower is looking far. We would like him to look near. We would like him to see what is happening now, not something that might happen in the distant future. We want him to employ the same attitude he used in the Suez dispute. Then he was wonderful. Arabs thought him the most peaceful man in the world. But where is the Communist menace? We do not see any Communists here.'" (N.Y. Times, 2-1-57).

The Plan is Unilateral

The Eisenhower plan did not originate with or through the United Nations. Nor did it come from the hearts, minds, or needs of the middle eastern peoples. It is unilateral. The *Wall Street Journal* editorialized (1-9-57):

Somewhere in the progression from World War I through World War II, the leaders of the United States became obsessed with the idea that this country had a duty to re-make the world. . . . Now we are to become the defenders of the Middle East. Indeed, we are taking up the mantle to protect the non-Communist world in every quarter. That is the way it is. But this newspaper cannot rejoice at the journey that led us here. Nor look without misgivings at the journey that lies ahead.

Strongest opposition to the plan has come from the very peoples it offers to "protect." Strong and official opposition has come not only from peace-seeking India, but from Jordan, Syria, Egypt. These nations seek full independence from all foreign powers, not the inferior status of protectorates or dependencies. The *New York Times* (which backs the plan) reported it "has aroused resentment and mistrust throughout the area" and quoted even a pro-American Lebanese politician as saying, "the

United States will lose all the prestige it won by its conduct of the Suez crisis."

Drey Middleton reported (NY Times, 1-7-57) that, even Britain, there was "scepticism and aloofness":

The massive entry of United States power into the area and promise to use force, if necessary, appears to many Britons as almost unbearably hypocritical acceptance by the administration of much of what was criticized in the British intervention in Egypt.

Aneurin Bevan, who had strongly opposed his own government's attack on Egypt, described the plan as "calculated plunge the world into the nightmare of a final war."

A Suggested Look at the Map

We pointed above to the inability of Mr. Dulles in his testimony, to offer any evidence suggesting Soviet plans for military attack in the Middle East. But when pressed on this vital point, he noted, "Soviet ground, naval and air forces stationed in areas adjacent to the Middle East—the Black Sea, the Ukraine, the Caucasus and Central Asia." Did Mr. Dulles assume the members of the U. S. Congress have no knowledge of geography? Or does he really mean to say that the security of the United States is endangered by the presence of Soviet forces on Soviet soil? With equal logic the Soviet Union could come forth with a Bulganin or Latin American Doctrine and propose sending Soviet troops and military advisers and rubles to Mexico. After all U. S. forces are stationed in Texas. We have said before it would be well for the makers and students of foreign policy to consult a map, and to consult and apply also the teaching of Jesus that we should treat others as we would like for them to treat us. How would we feel or react if the situation were on the other foot: if the foreign military bases and unilateral military doctrine were Soviet, instead of American, and were in the lands on our borders instead of the lands on their borders?

The geography of the situation is what James Reston has in mind when he contrasts the Monroe Doctrine of an earlier day with the Eisenhower Doctrine of today:

President Monroe and Secretary of State Adams were, in fact, speaking to the Europeans: "You stay in your part of the world and we will stay in ours." Mr. Dulles is proclaiming a more difficult doctrine, namely, "You stay in your part of the world and we won't stay in yours, for the resources of the Middle East are now essential to the security of the free world."

Who Will Fill That Vacuum?

Advocacy of the Eisenhower Doctrine has been linked with the "power vacuum" theory of the Middle East. The logic goes like this: Now that British-French dominant power has declined or vanished in the Middle East, another big power must come in to fill the "vacuum." That power must not be allowed to be the Soviet Union. It must, therefore, be the United States.

Prime Minister Nehru of India and numerous Middle Eastern leaders, vigorously oppose the Eisenhower Doctrine and its spurious "logic." Their anti-colonial point is: Any vacuum in the Middle East must be filled not by any outside great power, but by the Middle Eastern peoples themselves—as was done when western rule ended in India, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia. The era of colonialism is dead. The peoples and nations of the Middle East want no more dependence or outside domination, however "benevolent," nor any new, sugar-coated form of colonialism, however subtle. It is time now for these peoples and nations to stand on their own feet, develop their own rich resources for the welfare at long last not of foreign profiteers, but of their own impoverished peoples, and develop and rely on their own united strength for their own defense and protection.

As Prime Minister Nehru of India and President Shukri Kuwatly of Syria recently united in declaring (N.Y. Times, 1-22-57):

The problems of the Middle East can only be solved if the countries in that area are able, in complete freedom and without domination by any foreign power, to develop in accordance with their own traditions, more particularly in economic and social fields in order to raise the standards of living of their peoples.

A military approach to the problems of this area will only serve to create further disharmony and instability besides contributing to the heightening of tension and the endangering of world peace. Intervention by big powers in the form of military pacts and alliances is detrimental to peace and stability in the Middle East. The Baghdad Pact caused bitter conflicts and divisions in the Arab world and has greatly increased international tension.

The prime need of the hour is that passions and conflicts, which have recently convulsed the world and threatened world peace, should be allowed to subside. All nations should help in this process and nothing should be done which would aggravate the tensions and conflicts in the Middle East.

The progressive forces working for freedom and stability and

realization of the national aspirations of the people in this area should be encouraged, so that they may help in healing divisions and conflicts. The United Nations, with its recent increased authority can help in this process. Special responsibility lies on the big powers in the Near and Middle East.

This big power "special responsibility" is not, they hold, fulfilled by the United States in its cold war Eisenhower policy, which but serves further to divide and inflame the Near and Middle East and the world.

In this column of 1-8-57, Walter Lippman took a similar position. He warned against the "power vacuum" theory and declared it as "tactless and unwise" any effort to force the middle eastern nations to choose a "protector" between the United States and the Soviet Union:

"The very best we can now hope for in the Middle East is that Arab countries will remain unallied and in a middle position. It is therefore, not only misleading but almost certainly mischievous to say that with collapse of British authority in the Middle East, there is a "vacuum of power," which the United States must fill.

"The natural line of the Arab states is toward neutrality, and this should be respected and encouraged. . . . The time may come when we shall have to have some talks with the Russians about the possibility of arranging a stabilization by neutralization in the Middle East.

"The method of "stabilization by neutralization" is in contrast to the Eisenhower Doctrine and any effort from any quarter to bring about alignment of the several middle eastern nations with one or other major power or bloc. This alternative of helping middle eastern nations to fill their own vacuum through independence and non-alignment, was also advocated and set out by James P. Warburg in *The Reporter*, (2-7-58):

"The United States cannot prevent Russia from "filling the vacuum" by attempting to do so with its own influence and power. We can prevent further Soviet penetration only by negotiating with Russia a mutual hands-off agreement, permitting the Middle Eastern peoples to develop their full independence.

"The problem we face in the Middle East is quite different from that in 1947, when Britain was forced to drop the defense of Greece and Turkey on our doorstep. The Arab states have not asked for protection. Few if any of them would accept an American protectorate under the existing circumstances. Any attempt to take over the British position, as we did in Greece and Turkey, would alienate the Arabs and drive them closer to the Soviet Union; it would also cost us the good will of most of the Afro-Asian peoples.

"Our ultimate objective must be to negotiate an agreement with the Soviet Union that would permit the Middle Eastern countries themselves to fill the "vacuum" left by European withdrawal. Such an agreement would provide not only for a mutual renunciation of any claims or hopes to dominate all or any part of the area but also for a mutual understanding not to arm any of the Middle Eastern countries and to strip any economic assistance of political implications. In effect, it would provide for military and political neutralization of the entire area.

"In the absence of a Suez settlement and an Arab-Israeli peace, the Soviet Union is hardly likely to consider any such agreement, since it would obviously appear more profitable to the Kremlin to continue to exploit the advantages of the status quo.

"In his surmise as to Soviet interest and policy, Mr. Warburg was soon to be proven erroneous; for the Soviet Union has advanced on its own behalf (*N.Y. Times*, 2-13-57) a plan for the Middle East virtually identical in all particulars with that for which Mr. Warburg had hoped. The Soviet plan, as set out in the *N.Y. Times*, follows:

EXTRACT OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DECLARATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S.A., THE U.S.S.R., BRITAIN AND FRANCE

As proposed in Note of the U.S.S.R. handed on February 11, 1957, to U. S. Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen (similar notes were given to the British and French envoys)

Aware of the importance of the responsibility they bear for the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world, the Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France pledge themselves to follow, in their policy in respect of the Near and Middle East, the principles stated below:

"The preservation of peace in the Near and Middle East by settling questions at issue exclusively by peaceful means, on the basis of the method of negotiations.

"Noninterference in the internal affairs of the countries of the Near and Middle East. Respect for the sovereignty and independence of these countries.

"Refusal to undertake any attempts to draw these countries into military alignments with the participation of the great powers.

"The liquidation of foreign bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of countries of the Near and Middle East.

"Joint refusal to supply arms to countries of the Near and Middle East.

"Assistance in the economic development of countries of the Near and Middle East, without putting forward any political, military or other conditions incompatible with the dignity and sovereignty of these countries.

The Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the French Republic express the hope that other states as well will, in their relations with countries of the Near and Middle East, adhere to the same principles.

Initial response in Washington to the Soviet plan was that of prompt, light dismissal "before most critics had seen more of it than the news teletype reports. Diplomatic officials do not expect it will be so quickly rejected in the Arab world." (*SOVIET PROPOSALS DISMISSED IN U.S.*, *N.Y. Times*, 2-13-57). It would seem that more serious consideration should be given to the Soviet plan and to any other plan from any source aimed at freeing the Middle East from cold war and arms race involvement and for concentration on the centrally urgent task of economic development to end the cruel and preventable poverty suffered by the area's common people.

In contrast to the dismissal of the Soviet plan in Washington, the same plan was warmly welcomed in India, as we see in this *N.Y. Times* dispatch:

NEW DELHI, India, Feb. 15—The Soviet proposal that the big powers should agree to keep out of the Middle East was welcomed in political and official circles here today as being constructive and offering a basis for discussion.

Purely from a propaganda point of view the Kremlin has scored a significant victory in India, in the opinion of informed sources.

The Indians are pleased to note that in making the new move the Soviet leaders have taken more or less the line that New Delhi has been advocating.

India's basic position is that the Soviet Union and the United States should jointly agree not to supply arms to any country in the Middle East.

India also said in a joint statement issued with Syria last month that a big responsibility rested on the powerful nations to see that progressive forces in the Middle East were helped in the peaceful realization of their national aspirations.

In sharp contrast to the reaction to the Soviet proposal, the Eisenhower Doctrine for the Middle East has come in for much criticism.

Opposition to the Doctrine Growing

The Eisenhower Doctrine has also come in for considerable and growing criticism in the U. S. Congress. Many have assailed the plan's calculated vagueness (as to just what countries we would aid and under what conditions, etc.). Others have attacked the transfer to the President of the vital war-declaration power reserved to Congress by the Constitution. Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, high-ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee called the proposals,

a blanket transfer to the Executive of the Constitutional right vested in Congress to declare war. The claim by the Administration that the aim is to have the President share his powers with Congress in matters related to peace and war, is an affront to common sense. For under this resolution there is no sharing of power at all. Exclusive powers are given to the President. The Congress is dragged in by the heels to share not the power, but the responsibility for the Executive's use or misuse of the power blindly put in his hands by the Congress. (*N. Y. Times*, 2-12-57).

A later *N.Y. Times* article (2-26-57) reports:

Resistance to the Eisenhower Administration's Middle East resolution is rising in the Senate. Growing opposition, both to its substance and to all demand for early action, was conceded today by proponents. . . . Some supporters spoke for the first time of the possibility that roughly a third of the Senate might vote to reject the plan altogether.

A similar Presidential warning, that this country would defend Taiwan (Formosa) if necessary, was approved in January, 1955, by 85 to 3 after less than one-fourth of the time already spent on the current issue. It appeared tonight the final vote might well not be reached until next week, perhaps later. The tiny minority ranged against the proposal when the President offered it January 5 is growing the longer the debate endures.

The mail from their constituents may help explain the Sen-

SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN

\$2.00 per year.

25c per copy.

Issued monthly, October through May, and one summer issue.

METHODIST FEDERATION for SOCIAL ACTION
An un-official fellowship founded in 1907.

President, Dr. Loyd F. Worley; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Frederick E. Ball, Rev. Lee H. Ball, Prof. George H. Colliver, Rev. Clarence T. R. Nelson, Rev. Elwin E. Wilson; Recording Secretaries, Mrs. Ella Mulkey, Miss Janice Roberts; Treasurer, Rev. Edward L. Peet.

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Editorial Office and Office of Publication

P. O. Box 327, Gresham, Oregon.

Re-entered as second class matter Sept. 15, 1953, at the Postoffice at Gresham, Oregon, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

ators' growing opposition. The N.Y. Times of 2-1-57 reported: "SENATORS' MAIL RUNNING 8 TO 1 AGAINST PRESIDENT'S MIDEAST BID—Letters Come from All Over the Country—Dulles Is a Target of Some Writers." "The office staffs of both Democratic and Republican Senators on the committee" were reported agreed: "That there is 'considerable public interest' in the issue. That the mail is running overwhelmingly against the doctrine. That the opposition mail is unorganized."

The conscience of one U. S. Information Agency official led him to voice public opposition to the Eisenhower plan and then to resign from his post as Information Officer for the International Cooperation Administration in Seoul, Korea. This was Charles Edmondson, who served in the past as managing editor of the Birmingham, Ala., Post, editorial writer for The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and associate editor of Fortune. Mr. Edmondson declared:

I cannot conscientiously support a foreign policy which I believe may lead us beyond the brink into atomic war. President Eisenhower's call for a blank check to make war if he sees fit in the Middle East constitutes a demand for Congress to abdicate to the White House duties and prerogatives vested in it by the Constitution. In American history there is no peace-time parallel for such an opening to one-man rule. (N. Y. Times, 1-28-57).

Congressmen opposing the Eisenhower plan have emphasized its failure to solve or even deal with the area's most urgent problems: the thorny Israeli-Arab conflict, the Suez Canal dispute.

How Solve the Economic Problem?

The plan's authorized unilateral dollar hand-outs, outside the United Nations and without guarantee against political colonialist strings, will not solve the area's deep-seated economic problem. The middle eastern peoples desperately need a realistic, determined attack on the crying poverty they suffer. They need and support the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development, proposed in the U.N. by most nations, but opposed by the United States. The U. S. position is that we cannot afford to support this worthy project until we get disarmament and the dollar savings which will follow. But the Eisenhower Doctrine points not to disarmament, but to an intensified and extended arms race. It does not solve or deal with the real problems of the Middle East, but adds to them.

One of those problems is the exploitation suffered by the area's underpaid and impoverished people at the hands of billionaire U. S. oil corporations. Those corporations have been friendly to the authors of the Eisenhower Doctrine, and the friendship has been reciprocal. The exceedingly high profits of those big oil companies can be slashed if the peoples of the Middle East succeed in a struggle for full political and economic independence from all foreign control and exploitation. Victory in that struggle would mean the peoples of the Middle East would begin to develop and profit from their own rich resources, like oil and Nile and Jordan valley water power. That basic, inevitable struggle for complete political and economic independence can easily be mis-labelled "communist." The war threat and dollars authorized in the Eisenhower plan can well be used not to aid, but to impede the people's struggle for independence. We join Senator Wayne Morse in his plea: "No American blood for Arabian oil."

J.R.M.

(Editor's Postscript: We consider the position here taken in harmony with consistent past MFSA opposition to the arms race, cold war, and colonialism. We strongly supported Mr. Eisenhower in both the Suez Canal and Hungary disputes, but cannot in conscience support his latest proposal. If other MFSA members differ in their interpretation of MFSA program and consider the Doctrine a plan for peace, or progress, these pages are open for their criticism and views.)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

In his recent address to Congress and the nation, President Eisenhower has increased his emphasis upon generally accepted moral principles. Twice he expressed his devotion to the realization of the brotherhood of man. He asserted his objective in foreign policy to be "the building of a peace with justice in a world where moral law prevails." But the latest Dulles move in the Middle East on which the press has tagged the President's name moves in the opposite direction.

It abandons the moral pressure of the U.N. which was suc-

cessfully used to stop the war in Egypt for the unilateral force and economic aid. It is supported by the largest budget in our history—\$71.8 billion with \$43.3 billion for national security programs. It is accompanied by a presidential order that military spending be based on the assumption that nuclear and thermonuclear weapons would be used in the event of a general war. This, says the military expert of the N. Y. Times, ends the long tagon dispute over this question and is still another step toward that may have no turning.

Increasing this risk the Administration invites Congress to abdicate its decisive share in the making of war. Moreover, it does this while announcing the policy long enough before Congress can discuss it to subject its members to the accusation of helping communism if they do not accept it. Are such actions required by the nature of the ends?

There are two objectives in this policy which also lead from the proclaimed goal. They are not specified in the statements of Dulles and the President, but are freely mentioned in the press, and occasionally in Congress. One is Dulles' desire to close the gaps in what he calls our "defense perimeter" in the south and east of the Soviet Union, including arming their forces with the smaller nuclear weapons the NATO forces in Western Europe already have. The kind of peace this leads to is obviously the darkness and desolation of a dead world.

The other objective freely admitted is the filling of a vacuum in the Mid-East left by the removal of British and French controls. This is the old diplomatic fallacy of the balance of power. In the days of colonial imperialism it did work within limits, but it led in our time to two world wars and has no place in the world of today.

What the vacuum talk, and the President's moral principle cover up is the stark fact that the Dulles policy seeks our economic dominance over the Mid-East. At the moment the concern is oil—roughly one-third of the world's resources beyond that is the whole investment value of the Mid-East economy threatened with an inflationary recession. Under this is fear of the success of socialist economy.

A British paper complains "The Americans are taking oil away." Of Iraq's 33,000,000 tons last year, 23 3/4%; had 54,000,000 tons of the Kuwait field; 40% of Abadan's 16,000,000 tons. This also represents U. S. capital's share in the series of luxury thereby created for the feudal Arab chieftains and their entourage, along with the serfdom and poverty of the workers. Added to this is the increasing risk of war.

The extent to which our State Department has acted as the defender of our oil interests in the international cartel, and the over-riding of nationalization in Iran, is fully documented in Harvey C. Mansfield's "The Empire of Oil." (Monthly Review Press, 66 E. 12th Street, New York 14—\$5.00.)

He concludes that the only way out of the Mid-East mess is the only alternative to the present ruthless waste and squandering of this vitally needed resource, is a World Oil Authority. He records that in '47 the International Cooperation Alliance proposed that this be formed, on the basis of the widest cooperative principles. There were only two votes against it in the U.N. Social and Economic Council. But in December 1947 a proposal by Iran and Bolivia in the U. N. Economic and Financial Committee in favor of the right to nationalize oil was approved, with only the U.S. opposing it. A U.S. amendment in favor of the rights of foreign nationals in their investments was voted down 277 to 18. This showed the opposition to the decision of the U.S. diplomats in Latin America that no government loans should be made to any country there where such developments. They were to be left to Standard Oil and its associates.

The dire need for a non-profit, non-political World Oil Authority calls for discussion by all our members of the movement in relation to it of our stand for economic planning. How often if they tried, could get together from three to five friends at regular intervals for informal discussion on this and the other issues? If then the facts gathered, questions raised, and arguments reached, could be passed on to wider groups and the press for further discussion, some light might begin to break through the fog created by government and special interest propaganda.